B-5-11[14]

ARTICLES
FOR
VISITATION
Concerning certain MATTERS
Eccleſiaſtical:

EXHIBITED
To the Miniſters, Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Pariſh within the
ARCH-DEACONRY
OF
SUDBURY.
In the fifth VISITATION
OF
JOHN SPENCER D. D. Archdeacon
OF
SUDBURY.

CAMBRIDGE,
Printed by *John Hayes*, Printer to the Univerſity.
M. DC. LXXII.

The Tenour of the Oath of the Church-wardens and Sworn-men.

YOu ſhall well and truly execute your ſeveral Offices of Church-wardens, and Side-men, according to the Kings Eccleſiaſtical Laws.

So help you God and the Contents of his holy Goſpel.

Articles of Inſtruction to the Church-wardens and Side-men, in ſome more ſpecial matters to direct them in their Preſentments. *Anno Domini* 1672

Tit. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1 IS your Pariſh Church or Chappel in good and ſufficient repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats? *Can.* 85.

2 Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demoliſhed or pulled down? what part, and how long ſince? or any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezelled or ſold, and by whom?

3 Is there a decent Font of ſtone with a cover? and doth the ſame ſtand at or near the nether end of your Church, in ſuch manner as anciently and uſually Fonts have ſtood for the baptizing of children? *Can.* 81. Doth the Miniſter baptize publickly onely with water poured into the ſaid Font, without the uſe of a baſin? 82. Is there a decent Communion-table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another covering of white Linen, to be ſpread thereon at the time of the Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper? and have you a fair Chalice and Communion cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons? have they been profaned by common uſe? 20.

4 Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service; 82. a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cuſhion, 83. a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, and a Book of Common-prayer lately publiſhed *Anno* 1662. 80. the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority; *Stat.* and a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, 99. and a Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical; 58. and a Decent Surplice and Hood?

87. 5 Have ye a Regiſter-book in Parchment of Chriſtenings, Bu-
70. rials, and Marriages? and is the ſame kept in all points according
52. to the ancient uſe?

6 Have you a Book of Paper, to record the names and Licenſes of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do ſuch Strangers ſubſcribe their Names in the ſame? As alſo a third Book for the Church-wardens Accounts?
70. as alſo a Cheſt with Locks and keys, wherein to keep the ſaid Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

7 Hath any in your Pariſh defaced or cauſed to be defaced any Monuments or Ornaments in your Church, Chappel or Chancel, or erected any new Pews or Monuments therein without Licenſe from the Ordinary?

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1 IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any Perſon encroached upon the ſame, or made any door into it? and how long ſince?

2 Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houſes in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without licenſe? have there been any encroachments made upon the ſame, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

3 Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your
C. 87. Parſonage or Vicarage? as alſo a note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-tythes, and portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? Have any of the ſame been withheld from your Miniſter? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

Tit. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

1 IS your Miniſter a Prieſt or Deacon, Epiſcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*?

2 Hath he been legally inſtituted and inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two moneths after his induction, publickly in the Church upon ſome Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine

Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

3 Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

4 Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary? *Can.* 47.

5 Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith, without either diminishing in regard of Preaching or in any other respect, or adding any thing in the Matter or Form? 14.

6 Doth your Minister at the Reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood? 58.

7 Doth he observe the Holidays and Fasting-days, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly perambulation of Rogation-week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

8 Is your Minister licensed to Preach? if so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hindred, doth he procure one to supply his Office by preaching or Reading one of the Homilies? 45, 46, 47.

9 Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop? *Can.* 59. *Rubr. before Confirm.*

10 Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? 67. 69.

11 Hath your Minister married any persons without publishing the Banns on three Sundays or Holidays, or hath he married any in private houses, or not between the hours of eight and twelve in the morning, unless he had a license or dispensation from the Arch-Bishop or Bishop of this Diocess, or from their Chancellours or Vicars General, or from the Commissary for faculties so to do? Name who were the parties so married, and who were present at such marriages, and what Minister married them as far as you know or have heard. 62. 101.

12 Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick 72.

or private Faſts, Propheſyings or Exerciſes not appointed by Au-
73. thority? Or doth he, or any other, either Miniſter or Lay-perſon hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houſes within your Pariſh, for people of ſeveral families to reſort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thankſgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that caſe provided?

75. 13 Is your Parſon, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a ſober life and converſation? or is his carriage in any kind diſorderly or ſcandalous, and unbeſeeming a Miniſter?

14 Hath the Sacrament of the Lords Supper been duly Adminiſtred in your Church or Chappel ſo often, and at ſuch convenient times, that at leaſt thrice every year, (whereof once at *Eaſter*) every Pariſhioner within your Pariſh, being of the age of ſixteen years or upwards, might receive the ſame?

15 Hath any Child been Baptized within your Pariſh in any private Houſe, (except upon great neceſſity; and if ſo what was
3. *Jac.* 5. the ſame?) or by any Lay-perſon, or Midwife, or Popiſh Prieſt, or by any other then your own Miniſter? and hath ſuch Child
Rubr. of private Bapt. which was privately baptized, if he lived, been afterwards brought to your Church, that the Congregation and the Miniſter of the Pariſh (in caſe ſuch Child was not Baptized by him) might be certified whether ſuch Child was lawfully Baptized, or no?

Ratif. Can. 16 Doth your Miniſter publickly in your Pariſh Church or Chappel, once every year, read over the Conſtitutions and Canons Eccleſiaſtical, agreed upon by the Clergy of both Provinces *An. Dom.* 1603. in ſuch manner as is commanded to be done?

C. 65. 17 Doth your Miniſter every ſix moneths in your Pariſh Church, openly in the time of Divine Service, upon ſome Sunday denounce and declare Excommunicate by name, all ſuch of your Pariſh as do perſevere in the ſentence of Excommunication, not ſeeking to be abſolved?

18 Hath your Miniſter ſaid Divine Service while any Excommunicate perſon hath been preſent in the Church? or hath he delayed to denounce any Excommunication, Suſpenſion, or Abſolution that hath been ſent unto him from his Ordinary, further then the next Sunday or Holiday after the receipt thereof under Seal?

Rubr. after Nic. Creed. 19 Doth your Miniſter, upon Sundays at Morning Prayer de-
C. 64. clare unto the Pariſhioners, what Faſting-days and Holidays are to be kept the week following?

C. 50. 20 Hath any ſtrange Miniſter been admitted to preach in your Church,

Church, who did not before the Church-wardens subscribe his name in your Book provided for that purpose, and the day when he Preached, and the name of the Bishop or Bishops of whom he had licence to Preach? 52.

21 Doth your Minister publickly read over the thirty nine Articles unto the people twice every year, to the end that they may the better understand the same, and be made more throughly acquainted with the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of *England*, and not so easily drawn away from the same, as formerly they have been?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1 IS there any in your Parish that makes profession of any other religion then what is established in the Church of *England*? Doth any reproach the same religion, or seduce others from it, or endeavour to alienate the hearts of the people from their loyalty and obedience to the King? Do any absent themselves from the publick assemblies of the Church, or that come not in due time as well to Service as Sermons? If there be any, what are their names? *Act for Vniformity* 1 Q. Eliz.

2 Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction, and discord amongst their Neighbours? *C.* 109.

3 Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holidays follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers or sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

4 Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holidays, and as well during Divine Service, as preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read? *Can.* 13. 18. *Rubr.*

5 Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? *Rubr. of Bapt.*

ger? or do they send them to be Baptized in other Parishes? or are they Baptized after other Form then is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer then is allowed? or is there any Infants, or more aged persons as yet unbaptized?

6 Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which *Easter* is always to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling, or resort to other Parishes? or do any Strangers come to your Parish-Church to receive it?

112. *Rubr. after Commun.* 27, 28. 63.

7 Are there any in your Parish that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

Expresst in a table set forth by Authority. Anno Dom. 1563.

8 Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? or any that being lawfully Divorced have Married again? or any that being lawfully Married, and not Separated or Divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

99. 107.

9 Are there any Married Women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the Peril of Childe-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently Apparelled, and make their offerings according to Custom?

Rubr. Can. 85.

10 Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter* Offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

Rubr. b.

11 Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

12 Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

Can. 59.

13 Do all, and every housholder of your Parish, Fathers, Masters, Mothers, and Mistresses, cause their Children, Servants and Apprentices,

Apprentices, which have not learn'd their Catechism to come unto Church on Sundays and Holidays in the afternoon, obediently to hear, and to be ordered by the Minister till they have learned the same?

14 Do such as intend to be partakers at the holy Communion signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before as is appointed by the Rubrick? *Rubr. before the Commun.*

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

1 HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? are his Wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him? *Can.* 91.

2 Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning School-masters, Schools, Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1 DOth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary? doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holidays orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon? *Can.* 77. 79.

2 Doth any in your Parish practise Physick and Chirurgery? or any woman take upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without license from the Ordinary?

TIT.

Tit. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

Can. 89. 1 ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners? or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

2 Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3 You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

Rubr. at Commun.

4 Have you a decent basin provided by the Parish, wherein to receive the Alms for the poor, and other devotions of the people at the administration of the Lords Supper, and are they then especially collected by you the Church-wardens, or some other fit person for that purpose?

Rubr. at Commun.

You also are to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all Ecclesiastical offences committed by any that now is, or of late was inhabiting within your Parish; especially concerning the matters mentioned in the precedent Articles, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

FINIS.